

# APS Foothills Quarterly Gathering

## 18th – 19th August 2018

### Plants and Gardens of the Dandenongs and Foothills – a weekend of exploration and discovery.

Our Quarterly Gathering programme, which includes the APS Vic COMM and AGM, has been designed with a good mix of gardens to visit and bush reserves to explore. Some of these will include guided walk-and-talks and some not.

You can choose to visit the gardens and the bush areas, or just the gardens, or just the bush areas because the programme includes a flexible self-drive, explore-and-discover element with maps and notes, so that you can discover for yourself why we love our Foothills and want to share it with you.

The idea is that you can do as much or as little on the main programme as you want, and if you don't get to see all the bush reserves on the list over the weekend you can come back to explore later on. Visiting the bush reserves at various times during the year and especially through spring as it progresses, is almost addictive because plants come into flower at different times so there is always something to see or discover that may not have been there the week before.

**SATURDAY programme** - Starts with registration and morning tea at the Kilsyth South Baptist Church Hall, Liverpool Rd, Kilsyth South. There will be book sales and plant sales at this venue throughout the morning, so you can pop back at any time to pick up treasures in between garden and bush visits. Lunch will also be at this venue.

**Morning** - We have two gardens open in The Basin/Boronia area in the morning. Val Henry and Bev Fox's gardens are both close to the registration venue and to local bush reserves such as Wick's Reserve and Doongalla Forest Reserve, while Bateman St Bush in Wantirna is just a short drive away. Bateman St is a hidden gem of remnant valley heathy forest, an endangered vegetation type, and its existence will always hang in the balance as the



Healesville Freeway is proposed to occupy most of the site when and if it is built. If you don't get to Bateman St reserve in the morning, then explore it along with Roselyn Crescent reserve in Boronia, on your way to, or after you have visited the gardens and bush reserves in the afternoon.

**Afternoon** - After lunch, a bit further afield in Knoxfield, are the gardens of Kerry Davis and the Knox Park Primary School. Kerry's garden, while relatively small delights both humans and wildlife, and is not far from the school. Foothills has a long-running connection with the school and its gardens, which are planted with Australian natives that can withstand the rigours of a high traffic environment, provide habitat for wildlife and tie in closely with the surrounding natural bush areas. Here you can join a guided walk through the gardens and into Lakewood Reserve, to which the school grounds are connected via a short bush corridor.

**Evening** - Saturday evening sees us at Eastwood Golf Club in Kilsyth South for dinner. Our after-dinner speaker is landscape designer Sam Cox who is well known for his naturalistic style, having learned his craft under renowned landscape designer, the late Gordon Ford. Sam gets his inspiration from the natural landscape and environment and uses local native plants where possible. Other native plants may be used closer to living areas while indigenous plants are used further away as they require less maintenance and water. Sam is a captivating speaker and his philosophies echo many of our own as we also try to create beautiful gardens that are also sustainable, provide habitat for wildlife and yet still blend harmoniously with our local environment, be it urban or bush.

**SUNDAY programme** - On Sunday we are up in the hills enjoying the varied attractions of the Dandenongs and the main venue for the day is Karwarra Gardens, Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama. We are providing a light lunch here before the AGM.

**Morning** - There are two gardens you can visit in the morning, one being Shirley Carn's garden in Monbulk and the other, Karwarra Australian Garden. Karwarra is looking great and you can join a guided walk here before lunch. Karwarra's more formal garden elements blend well with the surrounding bush elements, so our connection to the bush and the inspiration we get from our surroundings is very evident here.

Apart from these two gardens there is plenty more to explore and discover in the Dandenongs, including a walk through the Mountain Ash forest to Sherbrooke Falls and William Rickett's Sanctuary with its interesting sculptures.

**APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting** – This will be held at Karwarra on Sunday morning.

**APS Victoria Annual General Meeting** – This will take place at 1pm. We are offering a light lunch of soup and sandwiches (at no extra cost) at Karwarra so that after the morning garden or bush visits you can join us for lunch and the AGM.

We are also recommending that on both days, people split into two groups, car pool and swap over as necessary as parking at the various gardens will be limited.

**We are looking forward to spending the weekend with you, so see you there!**

